UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL VEHICLE AND FUEL EMISSIONS LABORATORY
2565 PLYMOUTH ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48105-2498

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 10, 2001

Dear Stakeholder:

As stated in a letter from Chester France sent in December 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency plans to do a comprehensive review and analysis of data to quantify effects of various diesel fuel parameters on exhaust emissions. The pollutants that will be considered in this analysis are oxides of nitrogen (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC) and particulate matter (PM). As a first step, we would like to ensure that we have a comprehensive collection of all relevant data. As part of this effort, we are requesting information from you on existing studies that you believe should be included in our work. This information should be provided to us by January 31, 2001. When we have compiled a list of the data sources we plan to use, we will post this, as well as our analysis plan, on our website.

We are interested in collecting data from any studies that are relevant, including any in-house data that you may have. The confidentiality of any such data used that is not for public disclosure will be protected*. We would also like to be informed of any studies that will be taking place and/or nearing completion in the near future that could be included in our analysis.

Specifically, we are looking at effects on emissions from conventional heavy-duty diesel engines using conventional 2D diesel fuels as defined in ASTM D975. We are interested in test data that compares emission effects of different diesel fuel formulations, including variation in cetane value, aromatics, and density. Transient test data should have been generated based on, and conform to, 40 CFR 86, and steady state data should conform to ISO 8178 or alternatively, 40 CFR 89. For the purposes of this analysis, we will treat emissions data, based on FTP data, as representative of in-use emissions. Other duty cycles may be considered, to the extent that the changes in emissions based on fuel quality are statistically similar to the FTP results.

This analysis will be conducted in anticipation of the release of a final report in mid-May. Due to this short time frame, we would like to have all data by the end of January. Consequently, please notify us of all relevant studies, reports, etc. which would help assure the most informed and complete analysis. If possible, we would appreciate copies of these reports, analyses, and the underlying data. These copies are especially important for information which may not be readily accessible through the common public domain.

Periodic updates on our progress will be provided electronically, we also request that comments be provided to us in the same manner. We will invite comments on this material throughout the process. Comments submitted electronically will speed their coordination and help us complete this project on schedule. Any organization that would like to be involved in this technical feedback process should provide us with the name and e-mail address of an appropriate contact as soon as possible.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders in this process, and would appreciate a reply to either Megan Beardsley (Beardsley.Megan@epa.gov, (734) 214-4848) or Cleophas Jackson (Jackson.Cleophas@epa.gov, (734) 214-4824) with any data that you may have. Also, please pass this information along to any member companies and other interested parties that would have relevant information.

Sincerely,

Cleophas C. Jackson, Jr.

Cleophas Jackson, Team Leader
Diesel Fuel Analysis Team

* Trade secrets, proprietary and/or company confidential information will be subject to protection under 40 CFR Section 2.203(b).